

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron SIX
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California 96601

7 February 1968

Dear Families and Friends of HS-6 Personnel,

At long last the KEARSARGE is on her final Yankee Station line period for the cruise. In many ways this is the most difficult time, since we are very close to being home, yet no one can afford to relax for a moment while we continue our round-the-clock operations. Nevertheless, our hearts are overflowing with thoughts of home and our loved ones.

The vast backlog of Christmas mail has finally disappeared, but our routine delivery services continue. Also, our rescue services continue with four accomplished last month. Three were made by LT Bob WILDMAN; two on January 10th with co-pilot LTJG Don SANBORN, AX2 JARVIS and AXAN WAHL, and the third one the very next day with co-pilot LTJG Arnie BRUFLAT, and AX2 JARVIS and AXAN WAHL again. On both days the crews were on scheduled mail deliveries when they were diverted to effect the rescues which were out of the area normally covered by our SAR aircraft. These incidents reflect the great flexibility and adaptability HS-6 maintains in flight operations as a result of the efforts of all hands. Without this professional attitude and pride in workmanship being displayed by everyone under difficult working conditions, HS-6 could not function nearly as well and safely as it does.

On January 20th, the KEARSARGE left the Tonkin Gulf for Hong Kong, considered by many to be the best liberty port in the Far East. We then proceeded to Cubi Point in the Philippines. The SAR and Utility commitments in Tonkin Gulf were left up to SAR Detachment DELTA with LCDR Jess HARRIS as OinC. Det "D" transferred to the USS RANGER (CVA-61) where they were welcomed aboard the already crowded ship. While standing-by on the USS DEWEY late one afternoon, LT Vern VON SYDOW, LTJG Jim ROONEY, AX2 J. W. JONES and AXAN COCKERHAM were alerted for a rescue mission and launched within three minutes to pick up the pilot of an A-4 Skyhawk who had been shot down just off the coast of North Viet Nam. Although shore batteries and a destroyer were exchanging heavy fire, LT VON SYDOW flew in between them and rescued the pilot just after sunset.

Two days after the Korean situation erupted, the Det was forced to move to the USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63). The crews flying over the Gulf during the day returned to find that the Det had moved and that all of their helicopters were airborne transferring a staff of 83 Officers and men (including a 35 member band and their instruments) from one carrier to another, which lasted well into the middle of the night. Det operations returned to normal during the next several days and everyone was pleasantly surprised when the KEARSARGE arrived on station three days early from Cubi Point. Det DELTA returned to its "home away from home" with many new "sea stories" to swap with old shipmates.

The Korean situation has not directly affected KEARSARGE yet, but the possibility is always there. We are fervently hoping for the best as we know are all our loved ones at home.

It pleases me to announce the recent promotions of two Lieutenant Commanders and four Lieutenants, along with many advancements for the men. Our new Lieutenant Commanders are Tom MAY and Jerry VANATTA, and the new Lieutenants are Rick GRANT, Dick LYNAS, Eric PETERSON and Rich KEENAN. Below is the list of January advancements for the men. "Well Done!" Also, congratulations to their families for the support they have given their men towards this accomplishment.

Harry C. CHANDLER, Jr., ADJ1 to ADJC

Richard S. DAVIS, ABH2 to ABH1

Harold G. KILGORE, AE2 to AE1

Leo G. KRUG, AE3 to AE2

Ralph E. HANCOCK, ADJ3 to ADJ2

Harry L. BAKER, AE3 to AE2

Billy E. MADDEN, ADJ3 to ADJ2

Christopher W. THOMAS, AXAN to AX3

Robert M. PETERS, AXAN to AX3

Robert P. TUTHILL, AXAN to AX3

Rogelio M. VINLON, TN to SD3

Barry C. DUNCAN, SA to SN

Dennis P. MAGEE, AA to AN

Andrew L. JONES, AA to AN

John M. GARDNER, AA to AN

Steven L. BROWNELL, AA to AN

George E. KESSINGER, AA to AN

Richard S. PARKER, AA to AN

Hector R. ROSADO, Jr., AA to AN

Harold D. FLEMING, AA to AN

Ronald V. COCKERHAM, AA to AN

John M. FORRER, AA to AN

Bruce E. PYLE, AA to AN

Wilbert S. SAUNDERS, AA to AN

David F. KNIGHT, AA to AN

Napolean Bonaparte once said, "An army fights on it's stomach", but in the words of SN CALOVICH, our mail yeoman, ". . . it is the mail that really keeps our fighting men going." The COD is eagerly awaited each day, and mail call brings the rush of thousands of feet of those anxious to hear from home. To all of you, thanks.

It has recently come to my attention that the Enlisted Wives Club is on the verge of disbanding. I find this news very disheartening, particularly in view of the extreme effort expended by many to form this organization. In view of the present international situation it is highly possible that we will not be returning as scheduled. Our wives' organizations serve a very worth-while function - if not an essential one - while we are deployed. I sincerely pray that the difficulties our enlisted wives are encountering will be resolved in favor of continuing this worthy function. Stay organized for our benefit.

Sincerely,



A. D. FOX